The Long Island FISHERMAN

50¢

The Largest Weekly Fishing Magazine in the United States!

NOVEMBER 30th, 1978 ★ Volume 13, Number 48 ★ *13th Year of Publishing* ★ FIFTY-CENTS

SEASON FINALE

"Believe me, my young friends" said the Water Rat solemnly, "There is nothing...absolutely nothing...half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats,...Simply messing,...

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The wind in the willows.
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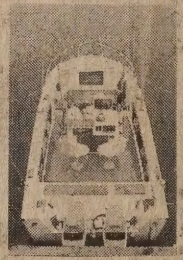

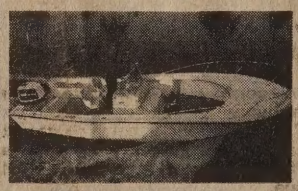

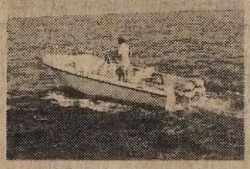

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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

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BLACK SEA BASS

About the Cover—

Are you confused as this *"Ol' Sea Dog"* about where to drop the hook for cod. For this and other info check out Doc Greli's article *"Fingering The Cod Off Fire Island"* on page 10 of this issue.

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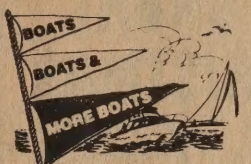

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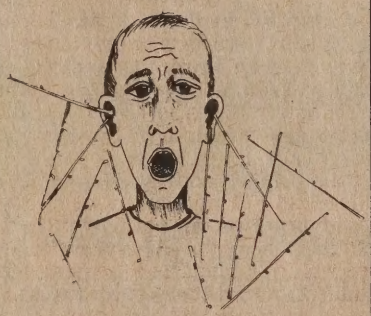

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Pass It On...

IGFA TO MAINTAIN SALTWATER FLY ROD WORLD RECORDS

Effective immediately, the International Game Fish Association will be keeping saltwater fly rod world records as a result of an agreement with Salt Water Fly Rodders of America, International.

Taking reponsibility for saltwater fly rod records is part of IGFA's expanded program to become the center of record keeping activity for all anglers worldwide. The program got its start when **Field & Stream** magazine turned over its freshwater record keeping system to IGFA in March, 1978.

Mr. Fred Schrier, founder and chairman of Salt Water Fly Rodders, headquartered in Cape May, New Jersey, stated that the organization has been maintaining records over the years as a service to anglers, and that their main interest is to promote the sport of fly fishing. "At this point in time," said Schrier, "we felt that the records would receive more international participation and interest if they were maintained by a larger and more diverse organization such as the IGFA."

The Salt Water Fly Rodders, organized in 1966, were the first to attempt to establish ethical standards and angling regulations for saltwater fly fishing. Among the organization's founding members are such fishing notables as Joe Brooks, Charles Waterman, Stu Apte, Harold Gibbs, Bernard "Lefty" Kreh, Lee Wulff, and Mark Sosin, who is world records editor.

"Their records have been meticulously maintained over the years," said IGFA President E. K. Harry, "and we intend to advance the principles originally established by Salt Water Fly Rodders. We will depend heavily on the founders of this organization for advice and counsel."

In a meeting with Harry in September to effect the records transfer, Mark Sosin stated: "We are delighted that IGFA has agreed to accept this responsibility as we believe it will help to promote the sport of fly fishing on an international basis."

IGFA plans to publish the first official lists of current saltwater fly rod world records and freshwater all-tackle records in the 1979 edition of its annual **World Record Game Fishes** book, published in the first quarter of the year. These records will be printed in addition to the marine game fish records maintained by IGFA since 1939.

Until further notice, the record application and rules developed by Salt Water Fly Rodders of America, International will be accepted for world record claims.

HUNTINGTON ANGLERS BASS & BLUE TOURNEY

The Huntington Anglers' Club held a Bluefish and Striped Bass Derby with the Mill River Rod & Gun Club of Bayville and the contest was a clean sweep for the Huntington Anglers' Club.

First prize in the Bass—Andy Hoffman, 7 lbs. 10 oz.; second prize in the Bass—John Ambrosio, 6 lbs. 10 oz.

First prize in the Bluefish—John Ambrosio, 8 lbs. 5 oz.; second prize went to Dick Deasy, 7 lbs. 8 oz.

No fish were weighed by the Mill River Club. After the weigh-in, a hearty breakfast was held at the Harbor Boating Club by the host club, the Huntington Anglers'.

PURPOSE & OBJECTIVE OF THE AMERICAN LEAGUE OF ANGLERS

The American League of Anglers was formed for the purpose of augmenting the activities of existing fishing and conservation organizations in those areas where the statutes providing tax-exemption prevent these organizations from engaging in certain activities which are deemed to be useful to the common objective of protecting and enhancing the quality of sport fishing in North America. The American League of Anglers is a non-profit organization but is not tax-exempt, thus enabling it to engage in such activities.

These activities include "direct political action" as defined by the relevant statutes and include attempting to influence the outcome of popular elections and attempting to influence—through overt broad-based political pressure—the outcome of a vote, or voting within a legislative body.

The American League of Anglers in no way seeks to compete with or dilute the efforts of existing groups whose focus includes fish, fish habitat and sport fishing. Whenever possible, the American League of Anglers works closely with local and national groups to ascertain if and how it can be helpful in furthering a cause which is of importance to fishermen, and then to support their actions in a mutually beneficial manner.

The American League of Anglers attempts to take a balanced view on questions regarding the protection and enhancement of fish habitats versus the inexorable pressures of industrial expansion and population growth. Recognizing that the "all or none" position taken by some extremist environmental groups is not sustainable, the American League of Anglers seeks to achieve an equitable allocation of resources among all users, consistent with continuing long-term viability of those resources.

The American League of Anglers believes that in order to be an

(Continued on page 23.)

Surf Side with Gerald Hahn

NEW YEARS FISHING FROM THE SURF

I decided to usher in one New Year's by making the rounds to a number of fishing areas in Long Island. No, I didn't toot a horn at midnight on New Year's Eve from Montauk Point, nor did I want to set a record and be the first person in the U.S. to cast a line in Long Island's water for the new year—I went out on New Year's Day. I went to the Shinnecock Canal first and arrived there around 11AM. I had brought some clams with me from New York because I figured that even bait shop owners need a day off. Surprisingly, I discovered one in the Moriches area who was open. No luck on worms, though. I said to him, "you're as crazy as I am." We wished each other a good year. Virtually all the worms supplied in our area come from Maine. It's too cold there now for the suppliers to dig them up. Why Maine? As the bait shop owner said, Jamaica Bay could be a wonderful area to dig up worms. The problem is, however, the differences in our tides are not great enough to make worm digging profitable. In the North Atlantic zone (particularly in Maine), the differences between high and low tide are so great that a large, workable area opens up in the inter-tidal zone which allows the worm diggers to cover more territory. Consequently, it is more productive there, even though one would assume that the sandier bottom formations along Long Island's shore line would be more suited to burrowing creatures like the Nereid worm, than the rockier bottom of the Maine coast. The differences in tides range from only a foot or two in parts of Florida to over twenty feet in parts of Maine.

But, back to the fishing—with clams. I must say, I don't know whether I just wanted to greet the New Year in saltwater or whether I actually expected to catch fish on this day. All right, a fisherman **always** hopes to catch fish—even in freezing weather. There wasn't a fisherman to be seen at the canal. I set up near the overpass (Rte. 27A) on the east side of the canal and baited up my two hook rig with clams; a two ounce bank sinker about three inches below completed the rig. After working the bottom in an arc for three-quarters of an hour, I pulled up my first flounder and my first fish of the year. I think the flounder was as surprised as I was. After another three-quarters of an hour, I decided to move on elsewhere. It was getting colder as a northerly breeze blew down the canal from Peconic Bay.

In general, this is a good area for flounders. Only a few weeks earlier, a considerable number of anglers could be seen here, working both sides of the canal from the southern-most point (where I was) all the way to the north end where a rocky outcropping exists on the west side and a retaining wall on the east. Many of the fish were over a pound and some people were catching nice quantities. By now, however, the fish are probably holed up in the mud. During "the season," other fish can be caught here. In spring and early summer, weakfish hang around the north end. However, this past year, they seemed to prefer worms to artificials. During the summer, fluke usually move through the canal; you can work almost any part of the canal for this species. All through the summer, on the north side—especially near the rocks—porgies were caught in good amounts and snapper fishing in late July and early August was excellent. They were caught either on small, silvery artificials or on spearing on the canal side and the bay side.

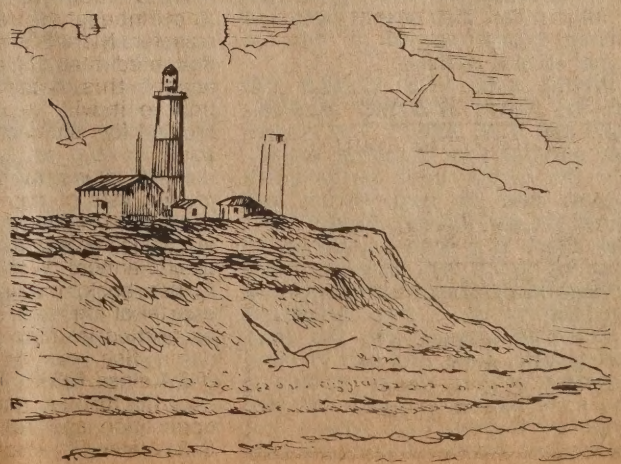
I headed further east to Sag Harbor where I know a spot that I would prefer to keep secret—not because the fishing can be excellent (it can), but because the area is privately owned and the nearby property owners would take a fit if hordes of anglers began to frequent this spot. I usually take along a garbage bag and pick up any man-made debris in return for permission to fish here. If you know or find such a place, you might consider working out some similar arrangement—and keep it to yourself. It's sad, but even this relatively unfished spot is full of discarded mono, plastic bags for hooks, squid and worm cartons, the inevitable beer can, etc. I will say that, in general, this whole area around Sag Harbor is pretty good and there are places to fish here; e.g., Jessup's Neck, Long Beach, and the Sag Harbor jetties. On New Year's Day, however, I didn't catch a fish here. The tide was going out, which is not good at the spot I fish, and it was probably getting too cold as well—although a week before I had caught a number of flounders there when every other place did not produce a single hit. This area is great for mixed bags of fish for the surfcaster.

From spring to fall, you may find that within the same water, you can catch flounders, porgies, and small weaks, snapper blues, or school-sized bass on a given day. In addition to small artificials (all kinds), I bring along some squid and worms. The former will catch weaks or blues, while the worms will produce for the rest. Consequently, you should bring along at least two kinds of hooks, a medium-small baitholder hook for the predators and either a still smaller baitholder hook for porgies and flounders or a small Chestertown for the same. Actually, I always keep a few of **all** kinds of hooks in different sizes in my tackle box. This way, I can rig up for whatever species seems to be in the most that day. Often, I rig up a hi-lo with squid on top and a worm on the bottom hook to cover both levels for different fish. Or I bring along two rods, a light one for bottom fishing and a medium spinning rod for the top. In general, the water is fairly calm and two ounce bank sinkers are adequate for fishing from the surf in Noyac and Little Peconic Bays, Shelter Island Sound, or Sag Harbor Bay.

I left this area around 3PM and arrived at the Shinnecock Inlet for the tail end of my New Year's Day fishing trip. I guess I was hoping for a few hardy blackfish. By then, however, the sun was low in the sky and although the water was not particularly rough, that breeze was getting much colder. I walked out to the end of the jetty where spring and early summer weakfishing and bluefishing had been erratic; fluke fishing good in August, blackfishing excellent in the fall, and too few stripers all season, and I decided to call it quits for the day. To my right, in the water, were three surfers in black wet suits, greeting the New Year in their fashion. It was incredible, to say the least, but really nice to see.

New York City anglers are funny types. You can find some of us fishing from the surf on New Year's Day or doing something equally zany. I remember last January, going fishing at night with three friends off Steeplechase Pier in Coney Island. It was a lot colder than this New Year's Day, and we were going for herring and/or whiting. Surprisingly, there were six other anglers there.

There are some possibilities for shore-bound fishermen in winter. Err ...correction ..."hardy" fishermen in winter.



FISH TALK
with Dr. William A. Muller

THE INS & OUTS OF BLACKFISHING

STUDIES ON THE KISMET REEF GIVE CLUES FOR BLACKFISHERMEN. The Kismet Reef is an artificial reef in Great South Bay behind Fire Island, about six kilometers east of the Coast Guard Station. It is a spot where anglers take weakfish, flounder, and striped bass at various times of the year, but it is perhaps first and foremost a place where fishermen take blackfish in good numbers. A few years back, Senior Aquatic Marine Biologist for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Philip T. Briggs, did a study of the blackfish on the Kismet Reef. The primary method of study was tagging, but results of the study were more widely and generously productive than many tagging studies are and these results have many implications for the fishermen.

THE PLAN OF ATTACK. Each winter I like to muse about the season that has just ended, as well as the season to come. I think about all the mistakes I made last year (although at the time I failed to recognize them as mistakes), and vow to avoid these errors in the coming season. Then, too, I might try to put together some interesting observations of the season past and attempt to deduce some startling revelations that might put me into untold numbers of fish in the season to come. Alas, it's mostly winter pipe dreams—but many of my thoughts do find application. Although many anglers might view this as a waste of time, lots of fishermen find that they increase their productivity by developing a plan of attack. Many times we find ourselves at a loss to come up with information that will allow us to develop a better game plan. Ever wonder, for instance, when the precise best time would be to catch such and such species at such and such a place, or the best time to catch big fish at that spot? The study by Philip Briggs provides a great deal of information that should help the Kismet blackfishermen to have a higher level of success.

WHEN ARE YOU LIKELY TO CATCH YOUR BIGGEST BLACKFISH ON THE REEF? The results may surprise you. Blackfish, especially the larger ones, apparently migrate into the bays during late winter and early spring. By April and May there is a good population of blackfish on the reef. However, most of these fish will be between eight and fourteen inches. Larger blackfish continue to migrate into the bays during May, June, and part of July; therefore, by July, the percentage of fish in the fourteen to twenty inch size range has doubled. Thus, believe it or not the best chance—statistically—for taking large blackfish on the reef is during the summer months of July, August, and September. This data is misleading, however, because it fails to take into account the changes in feeding patterns that take place when the water warms up and then again, when it cools. Divers take good sized blackfish off the reef during the summer, but fishermen often complain that they catch very few when the water is warm. It is, therefore, significant that the bigger blackfish hang around the reef into November, because it will be during Late September and October that the anglers have their best opportunities to catch bigger blackfish—in practical terms.

THE MIGRATION. It is also interesting to note that bigger blackfish begin to migrate out of the bays during some part of October, depending upon the speed with which the waters cool off. In December, the average size of the fish on the reef will be about four or five inches. Clearly, the bigger fish have left, leaving the smaller fish as residents. Where do the bigger fish go? Briggs also studied blackfish on the Fire Island Reef which is located about six to eight kilometers south/southwest of Fire Island Kismet Reef in the ocean. A sample of the population on the Fire Island Reef shows that in November there were many fish that fell within the twelve to fifteen inch range and there were some fish as large as twenty inches. There actually was an increase in the average size of the blackfish found on the Fire Island Reef in November over October. The scientists explain this difference by pointing out that the bigger fish leaving the bays probably stop at offshore reefs.

TAGGING RESULTS. About one thousand blackfish were tagged each year for four years on the Kismet Reef and an extensive promotion was made to encourage the return of tags on recaptured fish. The results showed that techniques of capturing blackfish, other than recreational angling, have little impact on the overall harvest of the species. The results also provided more startling results. We think of the blackfish as a home-body—a fish that moves about very little. Yet, the results of this study would seem to contradict that idea. One tag was returned from a fish taken at the Ambrose Light buoy; one tag came back from Montauk's Fort Pond Bay; two came back from Shinnecock Inlet; two came back from the Atlantic Beach Reef, and three were returned from the Cholera Banks! Indeed, our home-body blackfish seems to be a lot more mobile than we suspect. Many tags were also returned from fish taken on various wrecks that are scattered off the south shore—wrecks like the T wreck, Drumelzia wreck, Iberia wreck, and other unnamed wrecks.

MORTALITY. Enough tags were returned to the scientists to serve as a fairly good basis for estimating survival and mortality of the blackfish. They deduced that approximately four percent mortality was a result of fishing (angling), while a fifty percent mortality from natural causes comprised the bulk of an overall fifty-four percent mortality rate. Fish die of disease, starvation, predation, and many other natural causes just as other creatures do. Stripers and cod, for example, find a small blackfish to be just the ticket for a meal. There are many parasites that invade blackfish and although a "good" parasite should not kill its host, the presence of parasites frequently weakens a host so that secondary invaders such as bacteria and fungi can cause massive and often deadly infections. What effect does a fifty percent mortality have on blackfish populations? It means that if we started with a one-year-old population of one thousand blackfish, in ten years we would have only about one fish left. If we looked at the population in terms of total biomass (total living weight) instead of numbers, we would get a slightly different slant. The populations under discussion would have its greatest biomass during the third year, when only twenty-five percent of the population remained alive. At the end of ten years when only about one thousandth of the population was still alive, the biomass would only be about one-half of what it was ten years before.

THE EXCESS. Nature provides the excess. Initially, many—in fact, too many—juveniles of any species of fish are produced. Many of these excess individuals will become food for other growing fish. These, in turn, will become food for other predators and so on and so on. They gain weight, of course, because they are consuming the weight and potential energy of other fishes. Thus, at some point in the cycle of a year class, the greatest total biomass level will be achieved because it represents that point where mortality and growth are in "balance." Beyond this point both total numbers and biomass will decline, but the average size of individuals from that year class will continue to increase until there are no individuals left from that year class.

THE KISMET POPULATION. In spite of mortality rates, the overall population on a good feeding ground,

such as the Kismet Reef will remain fairly stable from year to year. There are fluctuations in abundance as there are for all species of fish, but the slight fluctuations will not reflect in any way the rather high mortality rate for the species. This is because each year the adults spawn, adding to the population size. Generally, the Kismet population of blackfish reaches a peak during late August and into September. The exact timing of this event will vary with seasonal changes. If the fall is warm, the population will not swell until late September; but if the weather turns cold early, the blackfish may swarm onto the reef as early as late August. During the years of the study, the Kismet population reached an estimated size of about eighteen thousand fish on two occasions. During late August and early September, 1969 and again during mid-September, 1972. At most other times the size of populations was between five and ten thousand individuals.

INTERESTING IMPLICATION. At the present time in the State of New York, there is a size limit on blackfish. "The present size limit in this State for tautog that may be bought, sold or offered for sale is seven (7) inches." That is NOT a recreational angling size limit, although one has to wonder why anyone would keep a blackfish smaller than ten inches—let alone seven. The results of the study led Briggs to the conclusion that perhaps the legal limit should be raised to nine inches. Blackfish become sexually mature in their third year and this equates to an average length of about eight inches for males and about nine inches for females. Thus, a nine inch limit would allow the blackfish to spawn once before being captured. Perhaps the suggestion is a good one, yet one is led to wondering what impact such a regulation would have, since only four percent of the total mortality is a result of fishing and since commercial fishing is said to be of minor importance. One can also see a possibility that blackfish may become a more viable commercial entity in the future. After all, the flesh is white, flaky and with a mild, but rich, flavor. Therefore, isn't it reasonable to assume that they may become commercially important someday? If so, strict management of the species will be required. The data from the Briggs study will serve as the basis for reaching those management decisions.

The Long Island FISHERMAN

SLIDE & FILM SHOW SERIES FOR WINTER OF 1978-79

These shows are available to sportfishing clubs and environmental organizations in the New York Marine District in a first come, first served basis pending the availability of the show producers. If you would like to be considered for a show between December 1, 1978 and March 30, 1979, just fill out the form below and mail it to:

The Long Island Fisherman
Dr. W.A. Muller, *Editor*
P.O. Box 1994
Sag Harbor, N.Y. 11963

The three shows available are:

MONTAUK FISHING—*by Scott J. Simons*

This slide show and talk will discuss the how, where and why of Montauk boat fishing for fluke, bluefish, striped bass, cod and pollack. Diamond jigging techniques will be emphasized.

WEAKFISHING—*by Dr. William A. Muller*

This slide show and talk is again being offered by popular demand. Topics include the ecology and life cycle of the weakfish. There are also discussions of seasonal locations and angling techniques.

SALT MARSHES & SPORTFISHING—*by Dr. W.A. Muller*

A twenty minute 16mm color sound film on salt marshes and how they are responsible for a viable coastal fishery. The film is followed by a question and answer period.

STRIPED BASS—*by Dr. William A. Muller*

Slide show and talk about how and where to catch striped bass. Other topics include the fish cycle and ecology of the species.

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Club Name or Organization _____

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with Matt Ahern

WINTER MACKEREL FISHING

Most sinker bouncers fish for mackerel only during the spring; some, I'm sure, are unaware that winter mackerel fishing exists at all. Therefore, is the possibility of getting a little mackerel action this winter more than a hope and a prayer? This was but one of many interesting questions bandied about by a group of Hampton Bays anglers as we stood in the old A&P parking lot one dreary, drizzly morning two weeks ago. The replies ranged from "Good" to "Not good," with an occasional "You guys are nuts!" thrown in for good measure. Actually I couldn't blame those Doubting Thomases, for I could see their point. But whether the majority of those pessimistic replies were due to lack of publicity, or because most fishermen have their sights set on cod at this time and couldn't care less—I don't know. But I suspect this may be so. Doubting Thomases aside, the chances of getting some mackerel action right now are fair to good. Just how good is determined strictly by water temperature. There have been seasons when mackerel lingered the entire winter (especially when codfishing gets off to a late start), and others when a two-week spell of fantastic action was it. Some winters these scrappers barely show at all, spending only a brief two or three days in springtime haunts and then suddenly vanishing to deeper (and warmer) offshore areas.

Such flighty behavior is not unknown in spring, too; mackerel aren't called "feast or famine fish" without good reason. Lest I lead you astray and fill your head with expectations of wonderous fishing, let me say that the spring run is always more reliable. But when winter mackerel are available, you will find them just as scrappy and full of zip as those caught last spring. This isn't surprising, for they have been feeding heavily all summer long in the deep waters of Maine and Nova Scotia, replenishing strength depleted by spring spawning, and building much-needed stamina for the return trek south. And they are just as hungry and willing to enter a chum slick as they were last spring.

The advantages of winter mackerel fishing are many. One, of course, is that the competition is nil. This means you don't have the entire fleet zipping around spooking the fish. And mackerel are spooky. Should the fish be difficult to locate, you can always revert to bottom fishing for cod, ling, or whiting. In spring you don't often have this choice: you either get mackerel, or return home without much to show for your efforts, hopes, and expectations.

It is seldom that codfishing party boats will fish mackerel on slow days, although I've been out with some skippers who took the gamble and carried a can or two of ground mossbunker chum just in case things turned sour.

I recall one December day on the Southeast grounds when cod were few and far between—even the bottom pick of ling and whiting was slow. A can of mossbunker chum was removed from the ice box, mixed with sea water to the consistency of thin soup, and ladled overboard by the mate.

Those fellows flashing four ounce diamond jigs filled their sacks with fat two-pound mackerel. And those fellows lacking the diamond jig weren't out of the action by a long shot. They simply removed their heavy cod riggings, added a four-ounce sinker, wrapped the shanks of several replacement 3/0 Sproats with aluminum foil and made their own on-the-spot mackerel trees. Worked fine.

To show how prepared that skipper was, plus proper concern that his passengers had the best possible chance to go home with fish, the aluminum foil and supply of 3/0 Sproats were carried along with the chum. Now, that's what I call a fish-thinking skipper!

Unless you are a true mackerel fanatic, I would certainly put in the first few hours bottom fishing. Keep the potential of possible mackerel fishing as a backstop. When things slow up, you can always remove the sinker and tie on a large diamond jig and try a little experimenting.

I've done this on occasion and have been pleasantly surprised with a cod when none were available on bait—which only goes to show that just because we aren't catching anything at the moment, it doesn't necessarily mean there are no fish down there. Diamond jig fishing often produces unexpected catches. One December morning some years ago on The Farms, I caught nine humpback sea bass with this method. And one New Year's Day while fishing the 17 Fathom Bank off Seabright, New Jersey, I nailed a twenty-seven pound pollack. That's the way to start off a new fishing year!

All that's needed is that one mackerel to let you know the fish are available, for it is a rare occurrence when only one mackerel is caught. That's the time to break out the chum. Mix it with sea water and ladle overboard sparingly. If you pile it to them, there's a good chance you'll draw dogfish. Once that happens, forget any thought of mackerel fishing in that area. When properly done, you'll soon have mackerel rising from the depths. You'll find your best fishing to be about twenty-five feet beneath the surface.

If you've tried codfishing first, your rod will probably be on the stiff side for proper enjoyment with scrappy mackerel; because of this, some fellows carry a medium-weight outfit. But don't go overboard on this and use tackle so light that you would have difficulty if you snagged a cod or pollack.

If you lack a mackerel tree, you can easily make one. Simply use several unsnelled tinned or cadmium-plated O'Shaughnessy hooks, 3/0 in size. Actually, any tinned hook in the proper size will work for this fishing, but I lean to the O'Shaughnessy pattern for no particular reason of which I'm aware. Force of habit, I guess.

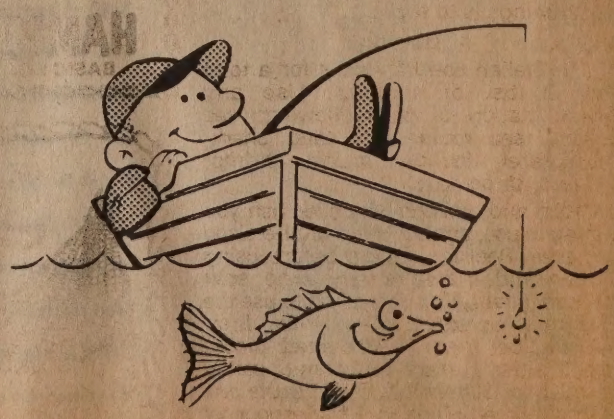
Use a four-foot length of thirty pound mono and stagger a series of three-inch double-overhand loops about six inches apart along its length. I would say three loops, plus the diamond jig, are plenty. Attach this to your line with a **dull finish** snap swivel. When tying on the jig, it is best to use an improved clinch knot.

Attach each hook to the leader by running the loop through the hook eye, then over the hook and draw up snug against the eye and shank. The loops act as snells and are stiff enough to hold the baitless hooks out from the main line.

That's all you need. Mackerel have no qualms about striking bare hooks—as long as they are bright. If it is necessary to use bronzed or other dull finished hooks, cover the shank with aluminim foil. Some fellows use a narrow strip of mackerel on each hook as an added enticer.

It is my belief that winter mackerel fishing is far from a hope and a prayer—but the only way to find out is to give it a try. You've got nothing to lose and everything to gain. You can bet a lot of the fellows are going to give it a good shot.

Including me.



THE CAPTAIN'S TABLE
TABLE LURES
with Helen Groll

FROM BASIC STOCK

When you fillet your catch, don't throw the trimmings away. The "frames," as they are called, of any white-fleshed, non-oily fish can be used as the basis for a delicious soup. Put aside the bones and heads (with gills removed) and plan to make a batch of stock or a hearty chowder. If you make the stock beforehand, it may be frozen and will keep very well for up to three months in the freezer.

Basic Fish Stock

Melt 3 tablespoons of butter in a pan and add 1/2 cup of finely chopped onion, 1 small chopped carrot and a handful of celery leaves. Cook gently for abouve five minutes, then add 1/2 teaspoon of pepper, 1/2 cup of white wine or two teaspoons of vinegar or lemon juice and 2 cups of water. You may also add 1 bay leaf and a few sprigs of parsley. Bring this mixture to a boil, then add 1½ lbs. of fish trimmings. Lower the heat and simmer gently, uncovered, for about 30 minutes. Cool the stock, strain it, and season it to taste with salt and pepper before using or freezing it.

Now that you have the stock on hand, try making a ...

Seafood Bisque

With the stock already made, the preparation of the Bisque is quite simple. Melt 1/4 cup of butter and stir in 1/4 cup of flour. Simmer over a low flame, stirring constantly, until the mixture is smooth and bubbling. Gradually add 3 cups of milk. Simmer, stirring constantly, until the mixture is thick and smooth; then season to taste with salt and pepper. Add 2½ cups of fish stock, cover the kettle and simmer for five minutes more. Stir in 1 cup of cream and your seafood. Bring just to a boil and then serve. For the seafood use one cup of any of the following: cooked and flaked fish, canned crab, lobster, shrimps, clams, oysters or mussels.

Another delicious way to use fish trimmings is to make ...

Burrido

This Italian specialty calls for a total of 2 lbs. of seafood. Use any combination of the following: sea bass, sea robin, eel, sand shark, mackerel, flounder, mullet, shrimp, squid, or octopus.

Clean and de-bone whatever fish you plan to use, and cut them in bite-sized pieces. Peel the shrimp before using them and, if they're very large, split them in half. If you're going to use the octopus or squid, clean them first. Then, cut them in bite-sized pieces and simmer them in boiling, salted water for 30 minutes. Now, saute one small sliced onion in 1 tablespoon of olive oil for three minutes. Then add 1 rib of chopped celery, 1 tablespoon of minced, fresh basil, and 1 lb. of chopped tomatoes. Lower the heat and simmer for five minutes. Arrange the fish in the kettle and simmer gently for a minute or so. Then add 1/2 cup of dry white wine and 2 or 3 chopped anchovy fillets. Pour over the fish just enough stock to cover them and simmer for ten minutes. If using the shrimp, add them during the last five minutes. The squid or octopus should be added along with the fish pieces. You may also wish to add some chopped, cooked clams and their liquid to the Burrido during the last few minutes of cooking. Serve the soup with chunks of hot garlic bread to dip into all that delicious juice!

For a touch of the Caribbean, try ...

Tuna Soup Martinique

You may use any white-fleshed, non-oily fish for this. We find that flounder is a good choice.

In a saucepan melt 3 tablespoons of butter. When the butter is bubbling, lower the flame and saute 1 finely minced pepper, 1 cup of finely minced pepper, 1 cup of finely minced onion and 2 cloves of minced garlic in it. Stir in 1/4 cup of flour. When the mixture is smooth, gradually add 3 cups of fish stock. Simmer briefly while stirring until thickened, then add 1 lb. of boneless fish fillet, cut in chunks. Cook, over a low flame, until the fish flakes. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Add one small can of oil-packed tuna and stir to break all the fish into flakes. Add 1/4 cup of drained, capers. Bring to a boil, simmer for five minutes and serve.

To round out our fish stock recipes, we must add an American touch. So, try this one, it's good!

Manhattan Fish Chowder

Saute three strips of bacon, remove them from the pan and drain on paper toweling. Reserve the bacon fat in the pan and add one chopped onion to it. Saute gently for 2 minutes, then sprinkle 3 tablespoons of flour over it. Stir until smooth and then gradually add 3 cups of fish stock. Bring to a boil and add 2 cups of raw, diced and peeled potatoes, 3 cups of undrained tomatoes, 1/2 cup of diced green pepper and 1/2 of a bay leaf. Cover the pan, lower the heat, and simmer until the potatoes are tender. Now crumble the bacon and add it along with 3 tablespoons of butter and 1 cup of cubed, fish fillets. Simmer gently until the fish is flakey and serve with oyster crackers.

So there you have it: a brace of seafood soups. Next time you clean fish—remember to save those scraps!

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Fingering The Cod Off FIRE ISLAND

Part Two—by Dr. Einar Grell

"Dead Stick" Method of Fishing for Cod.

In fishing for cod, I employ the "dead stick" technique, which is nothing more than placing six or seven rods in strategically located pole holders. The only fishing I actually do is that accomplished with a hand line and that involving putting the rods out and cranking in the fish. I do not like holding onto a single rod all day. Three rods are relatively short, five foot, semi-stiff thirty pound trolling rods which I fish in close to my boat. The other three rods are seven-and-a-half foot, very flexible poles. They are fished away from the boat. Actually, I have approximately fourteen pieces of impaled bait hanging over my clam chum cafeteria beneath (six rods with two baits and one handline with two baits). My basic codfishing theory is this: when a small school comes by to eat crabs and shucked clams from my cafeteria, I do not want them to bite each other attacking one or two baited hooks. They all can have their own baited hooks to nibble from and won't have to crowd one another. This type of fishing also enables me to catch several cod at the same time and produces for me and my buddy what we call **small orgy fishing.** After all, we have spent considerable time preparing a banquet for more than one or two fish, so why disappoint Mr. Whiskers. The only exception to fishing in this manner is when we catch dogfish, at which time we immediately pull four or five rods out of the water and fish one-on-one; one rod to a fisherman. One dogfish can tangle up "dead stick" rods into a mess that defies the "Guiness Book of Knots." Untangling these messes consumes far too much time. Dogfish caught are rapidly reeled in with a minimum of fanfare. I thoroughly love the "dead stick" method and possibly is the major reason why I do not like to fish on party boats where fishing with one rod is the rule. I am spoiled. The method described does catch fish. It also eliminates the neurotic habit of constantly jumping the bait, checking the bait, moving the rod, etc., all of which is a **no no** for codfish, who tend to spook when baited hooks are undergoing Saturday Night Fever or disco gyrations. In using the "dead stick" technique, it is imperative that enough slack be given to your terminal tackle to compensate for up and down motion of your boat. The Benesch Rig is perfectly adapted to the "dead stick" method. This rig keeps baits off the bottom with a cork which is placed at the top of the rig just below swivel that connects terminal tackle to main line.

With more than one rod being employed you will usually find that once one cod starts nibbling, others of the small school get the idea and do likewise. In this manner, you have an excellent chance to catch double headers and clean up on a small school. Oftentimes this method gives you one orgy of maximum catch for the entire day. So make your encounter with your friends as productive as possible.

While you are "dead sticking" you should practice the art of handlining with some creosoted carpenter cord or tarred line. With a handline you can develop line control and sensitivity. You can actually feel Mr. Whiskers beginning to breathe upon and start minor nibbles of your bait. With a handline you can feather the sinker on the bottom, barely holding bottom so that when the cod start fooling around with your bait, you eliminate more or less the sinker from delaying vibrations. Of course, you can do the same with rod and reel, but it involves too much cranking and changing level of terminal tackle. Here you have direct contact with your line and, in turn, the fish.

Jack Sherlock with a load of cod taken aboard the author's skiff at the "Fingers."

Vibrations are direct to your fingers and unless they are frozen, it is far more fun to actually feel the fish gobble up your bait or take off with the baited hook. Try it. The technique is far less tiring than holding a Penn 3 or 4/0 all day.

Bait and Rigs.

I have never ascribed to the philosophy that "the bigger the bait is, the bigger the fish." My theme is: one whole clam or half clam with dripping guts to one hook, with the hook always visible or protruding from the bait. I use 5/0 or 6/0 regular shanked Sproat hooks. If you need to make your bait last, you can cut up whole clams into quarters. Do not overload your hooks and experiment a little with various sizes of baits.

Wave size and current will determine the weight of Diamond or Bank sinkers which I use varying in size from eight to sixteen ounces. My preference is the eight ounce Diamond sinker which I spray with quick drying Dry-Glo "School yellow," "stop sign red" or "yum-yum" orange. I do find that painting my sinkers does make a difference in maximum catch for cod. Don't ask me why. Use of sixteen ounce sinkers would indicate that I am fishing in a gale. If I am fishing over a wreck, I employ eight or ten ounce colored sinkers or a 10 ounce Diamond jig which is attached to a three-way swivel to which a two foot leader is attached with a #7 or #8 Sproated hook. Actually, this rig is a **jigging rig** employed in such a way that you lower the line to the bottom and jig up until the fish are located. This is also known as **wreck fishing rig.**

The type of rig which I prefer for open bottom fishing

is the Deep Sea or Bottom Rig, which can also be used for pollack. This rig consists of two twenty inch, forty to fifty pound test leaders which have #5 or #6 regular shanked Sproat hooks attached. Eight or ten ounce Diamond sinkers hold the rig to the bottom. I prefer this rig for the simple reason that it is two-hooked and enables me to catch double-headers every so often. The Deep Sea Rig is the old standby for cod.

In setting the hook on cod, do not be too impulsive. Allow them a few seconds to taste, chew and swallow your clam dinner before you sock it to them. They do have large mouths and preliminary nibbles do not mean that they have swallowed your bait—they are only sampling. As for those cod that attack your bait, hit them good with the drag set at three-quarters full. You can always loosen up the drag a little after you have them coming in. Once the hook is set you will lose very few cod in the tugging and pulling which ensues. This is the fun process of fishing that you have been waiting for—so enjoy it. It is imperative, however, in reeling them in that you do not drop your rod tip and give them free slack in your line. Lip-hooked cod will most certainly escape. However, if they have been given ample time to swallow your bait you will find that most cod will have your hook deep in their gut cavity. When this occurs make yourself a hook disgorger out of a wooden dowel (about one-and-a-half feet long) which has a notch carved into it. You will find that this little instrument will save you many gill and teeth abrasions. With this gadget you hold the fish still, run the grooved end of the wooden dowel onto the hook where it will stop. Push down with dowel while holding fish firm and—voila, the hook comes out of his trap.

When boating a cod, always employ a gaff. Do not attempt to swing a thirty pound cod into your boat with thirty pound test line. Maybe you can do this with sixty pound test line, but you are taking a chance on losing your catch. This is bad procedure. Place all caught fish under cool wet bags or in a cool place, to prevent drying out process. Better to place them on ice.

Reels.

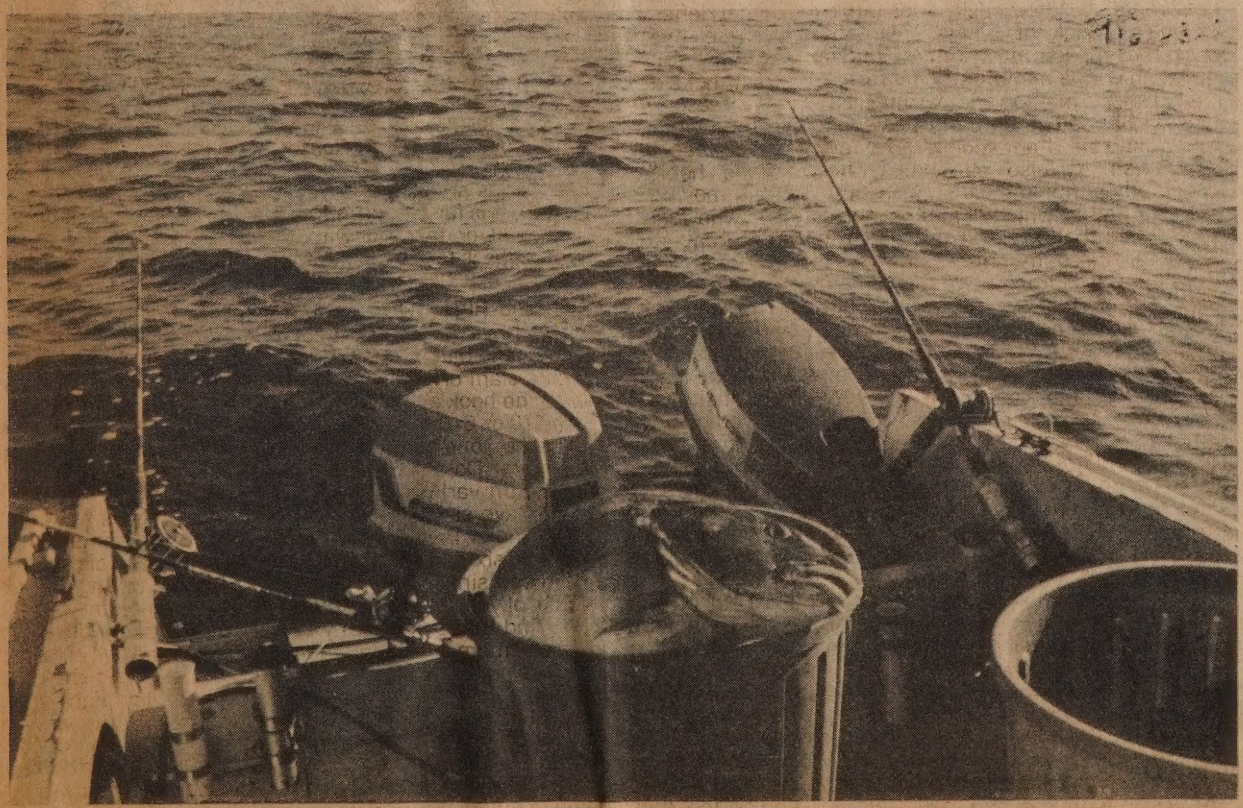
Penn #50 reels spooled with forty pound test are most appropriate for any size cod that you will catch off the "Fingers." Fish weighing over thirty pounds are considered big; most of your cod will weight between six and twenty pounds. If you catch them in the forty to fifty pound class, you are catching "superfish." The Penn 500 has rapid retrieve and is excellent for jigging. On wrecks and in very deep water, I sometimes employ Penn 3/08s or 4/0s. A seven-and-a-half foot stiff rod complements this reel.

When using thirty or forty pound test line, you must constantly check your mono for line cuts and abrasions, especially when you have been working over the dogfish. Actual codfish rigs are made up of sixty to eighty pound test leader material and will give you minimum problems. Nevertheless, pay attention to the condition of your terminal tackle. Hooks do fall off and rigs do break.

All of your codfish rigs should be tied to swivels or eye-hooks with the five turn improved clinch knot. Stay away from bought rigs with colored beads, colored plastic discs, etc. Learn how to make a dropper loop in your main line to which you will attach eighteen to twenty inch, fifty to sixty pound test line leaders to your snelled hooks. Learn how to snell all hooks to all leaders. Hooks which I employ are 5/0, 6/0 and 7/0 regular shanked Sproats made by Mustad. These hooks have a nearly-round bend with a straight point. Most of my fishing is done with 5/0 Sproats. The smaller hooks have the advantage of more natural action and do not tend to wrap around main line or foul. Heavier hooks do have this tendency.

All of your hooks should be sharpened—honed to surgical needle sharpness. Buy yourself a jeweler's file and learn how to sharpen your own hooks. Store-bought hooks are not sharp; most fishermen lose their fish with dull hooks. In "dead sticking," super sharp hooks are a must. The slightest contact of your hooks with a cod's mouth and his slightest movement should mean self-penetration. You do not need to jerk your arm out of socket in order to set your hooks in a cod's mouth if you have sharp hooks. Super sharp hooks also enable you to fish for cod with whippy poles. Oftentimes you will catch cod who nonchalantly swallow your bait and seem to fall asleep without even tugging on your line. They are, for all

(Continued on page 13.)



First cod of the day framed by three dead sticks.

ANCHORS OLD & NEW

BY FRED GUARDINEER

ANCIENT MARINERS USED UNSOPHISTICATED ANCHORS TO MOOR THEIR SHIPS - OFTEN SIMPLY A LARGE STONE TIED TO A ROPE OR A HEAVY WEIGHT WITH A LARGE STAKE THROUGH THE MIDDLE. BY 200 AD. ROMAN SEAMEN ADVANCED TO WOOD AND IRON ANCHORS WITH STOCKS AND FLUKES, A SIGNIFICANT STEP FORWARD.

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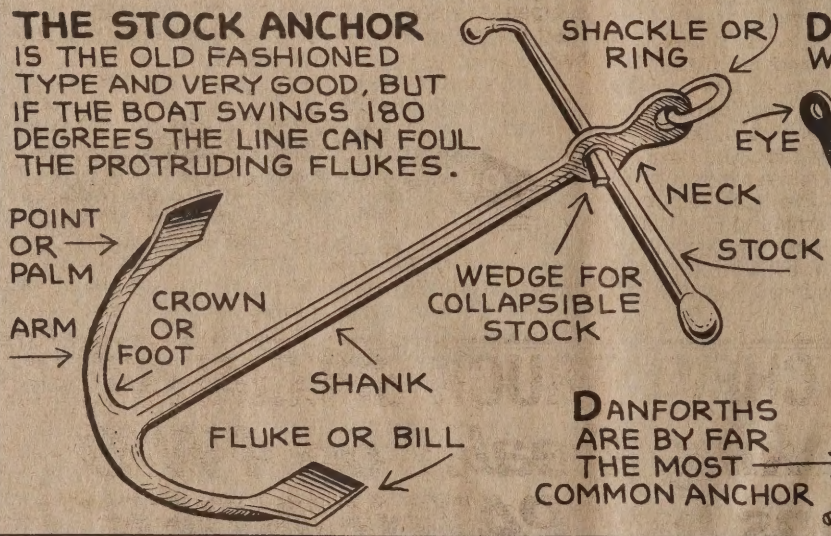
EUROPEAN ROCK BASKET 800 BC.

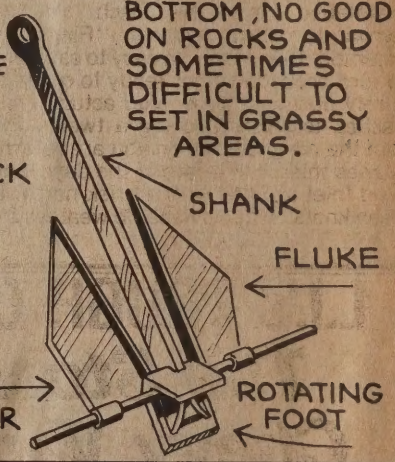
GREEK IRON HOOK 400 BC.

EARLY PRIMITIVE TYPES OF ANCHORS DESIGNED TO DIG IN OR FOUL SOMETHING ON THE SEA BED TO HOLD SHIP.

THE STOCK ANCHOR IS THE OLD FASHIONED TYPE AND VERY GOOD, BUT IF THE BOAT SWINGS 180 DEGREES THE LINE CAN FOUL THE PROTRUDING FLUKES.



DANFORTH ANCHOR WILL DIG IN ANY SOFT BOTTOM, NO GOOD ON ROCKS AND SOMETIMES DIFFICULT TO SET IN GRASSY AREAS.

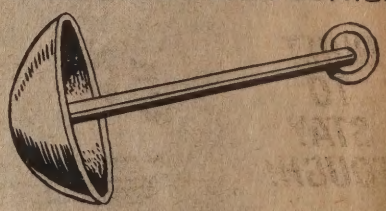


DANFORTHS ARE BY FAR THE MOST COMMON ANCHOR

PLOW ANCHOR IS BEST ALL-AROUND, WILL RESET ITSELF IN A TIDE CHANGE BUT IS A PROBLEM TO STOW.

NAVY ANCHOR RELIES ON ITS WEIGHT TO HOLD BOAT BUT THE FLUKES DO BITE IN SOMEWHAT.

MUSHROOM ANCHOR RELIES ON WEIGHT AND WON'T FOUL IN ROCKS. IS IN WIDE USE ON BASS BOATS.



JUG ANCHOR MADE BY FILLING PLASTIC JUG WITH CEMENT. PUT A PIECE OF COAT HANGER IN THE SPOUT, ALLOW CEMENT TO SET AROUND IT.

DRIFT ANCHOR BY USING A PIECE OF CHAIN. SLOWS BOAT AND SLIDES OVER ROCKS.

CANOE ANCHOR---A TOUGH PLASTIC BAG FILLED WITH ROCKS... WHEN PORTAGING, EMPTY THE BAG.

purposes, already caught. Other times frisky cod will impulsively pounce upon your bait. Most of my cod actually catch themselves, with the super sharp hooks providing the winning edge. Hooks are the least expensive part of your expeiditon. To brave the "Fingers" in the windy, cold-water days of November and December, to present cod with a two or three bushel dinner of clams only to climax this safari with rusty hooks which look more like encrusted Geritol, is sheer stupidity and a waste of time. You should stay home.

When is the fishing good in the "Fingers?"

According to all the codfishing scientists I have contacted, it appears that when we have a high pressure system over the "Fingers," the fishing is good. Fish tend to feed and winds, for the most part, will be out of the north, northwest, or west. When winds are out of the east, southeast and northeast, we are usually experiencing a low pressure system and the fishing is basically bad. Wind from the south also produces poor fishing. Unfortunately, when we undergo a high pressure system off Fire Island, we have considerable wind to consider and this presents us with the enigmatic problem of "Should I go fishing, or should I stay home?" The answer to this question depends upon such factors as the size of your boat, the degree of insanity you possess, the quality of your survival suit, wind direction, wind speed, and wave size.

As stated previously, when the wind is out of the north or northwest, you can fish the inner "Fingers" in the relative lee of the beach. You need not go way downwind to the farthest "Fingers" to catch cod. Remember that it is quite easy to sail downwind, but when you turn around and get ready to come back, you have an entirely new ball game. You actually can have your boat smashed to pieces bucking a twenty-five knot headwind out of the northwest when you are returning to Fire Island or Jones Inlet; so beware of the days when you leave Fire Island Inlet at 7AM with a brisk northwest wind of ten to fifteen knots. What is fishable weather at and between the hours of 8AM and 10AM can turn out to be a "Fingers of Horrors" by high noon. If you do not believe me, ask any codfisherman who has fished the East Bay Anglers "Chiller" Contest over a period of several years. The watchword is CAUTION in November and December. Don't be a hero for old Mr. Whiskers and remember that water temperatures oftentimes are in the forties and low fifties. If you end up in the drink, your survival time will be short.

Also, do not plan on traveling to the "Fingers" area or breaking through Fire Island or Jones Inlet when it is dark. This is risky and stupid navigation. You are asking for trouble. My rule of thumb is: pick up my clams at Frank and Dick's on the State Boat Channel at approximately 7AM (Frank and Dick's is located in the Babylon sector of State Boat Channel). It is now getting light out, the sun is coming up, you can more or less inventory what kind of a day it will be, travel in the company of at least one other boat and then head out. I do not believe in fishing for cod with and in an armada of boats; but you should fish in the company of at least one other boat for the unexpected which can occur. You might have to be saved, so let your buddies know where you are fishing. Bring your CB and your VHF—**have radio contact.** Bring enough bait, don't forget the oversized anchor, sharpen your hooks, dress warm, try "dead sticking" and head out to the "Fingers" for some codfishing fun. Best of luck.

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SEASON FINALE

by Ron Onorato

There is a certain time of the year that serious bass fishermen do not look forward to, and that quite obviously is the end of the season. As the month of November begins to wane, and the talk around town is about codfish—not stripers—most bassmen know that we are at the end of the road. There is no mistaking the signs of the forthcoming winter: the days are short and the air is cold. However, nature is not that cruel; and it seems that we are given one last chance at some stripers. In fact, there is some downright good fishing to be had around this time of the year.

The area around New York Harbor, often called the New York Bight, is one place where some of the best fishing for school bass is to be found. This area is a good bass producer throughout much of the year; but come the end of the season, the place really livens up. This is one of the few places that is the recipient of the dual migration of the bass. The grounds usually hold the fish from the Chesapeake region as they go south for the winter, and they get the Hudson River fish as they start moving back north.

George Oliver with a late season bluefish. Notice the long leader and lancer tube from the center of the umbrella rig.

The New York Bight is a large expanse of water bounded by Sandy Hook, New Jersey on the west, and Rockaway, Long Island to the east. In-between these spots are some very good bass producers. Admittedly, this region has suffered the ravages of severe industrial pollution for many years, but the stripers seemed to have adapted to this condition and have not totally abandoned the area.

November is by far and away the best month of the season to have reasonably good success at some small fish. While school bass seem to have disappeared from most places along the Coast, they almost always seem to show up around here towards the end of the season.

The controlling factor as to the arrival of the fish is the weather and the type of bait available to the fish. The Seventies has seen some drastic changes in the patterns of autumns we have been having. The early part of the decade saw some excellent fall weather with plenty of mild westerly winds that, in effect, prolonged the migrations in some cases, through early December. However, the Fall of 1976 pretty much tipped the apple-cart. The weather went sour early in October and got worse as the season wore on. The bulk of the fishing was finished by the middle of November. Last fall was a little better; but around the beginning of November, the winds went east and seemed to stay that way for two weeks. By the time the winds let go, the fish were well on their way to the wintering grounds. Even in the past two years, there have been a number of small bass that stayed around through much of the month.

The fish sought after in this region are almost exclusively school bass of less than ten pounds in weight. The bigger fish are usually on the move much sooner than the smaller fish, and by the time the schoolies settle in, the cows are well on their way to the wintering grounds. Consequently, fishing activity is geared primarily for small fish, and this is the main consideration in tackle selection.

In addition to the primary factor of weather conditions, bait availability is another controlling factor. The fish are feeding heavily at this time of the year, regardless of where they are. As they pass through the New York Bight, if there is not an adequate supply of bait available, they will simply breeze through the spot, and that will be the end of that. If there is a large supply of bait, I believe the fish will stick around into early December. But then again, the weather also controls the movement of the bait supply; so we end up with the weather being the controlling factor all around.

The primary bait supply at this time of the year is the sand eel. Most of the bait fish such as the bunker, mullet, herring, etc., are long gone at this time of the year. However, the sand eel seems to be around almost all year long, and the bass are not far behind. Another interesting point that has been noticed for the past few years has been the relative abundance of bluefish in the area around the same time as the bass show up. Long thought of as a warm water species, it is now apparent that they will stick around as long as the bass do—and often later! I know of several bluefish caught off the Rockaway jetty by surf casters during the first week of December.

These small bass can be caught in any number of ways, with trolling being the most productive method simply because you cover more area, and that is very important as the fish are on the move and trolling gives you the best chance of locating the fish. Also highly favored is the use of the diamond jig in certain locations, and finally when conditions are right, casting small lures to the fish. Each of these techniques have their own applications under certain conditions and in specialized locations. Like anything else in the bass fishing game, you have to go with what will

give you your best shot at some fish. The fish are small and careless at this time of the year; so they are not as cautious as they are at other times of the year, and readily take artificials.

There are primarily two types of lures that are most effectively used by the daytime bass troller: the umbrella rig and the bucktail jig. By far and away, the umbrella rig is the most efficient lure to use when fishing for small bass at this time of the year. The water is loaded with small sand eels, and the umbrella rig fits the tab perfectly. You should note that not just any umbrella will catch. Ever notice one guy doing particularly well, while others are just scratching away? Try to get a look at what sort of rig he's using and see if you can get a setup like it.

A few words about umbrella rigs are in order. First, try to keep to just one color on the rig rather than mixing them up. In this area, purple and wine colored tubes are the most effective, with black, red, and green tubes all working at varying times of the day. Bass can perceive different shades of color under varying lighting conditions; so while one color may work well on a bright, clear day, this same color may fail dismally on that dark, cloudy day. It's up to you to experiment with different colors until you hit the right combo.

Tube size is also another important consideration that few fishermen pay any attention to, but is all important. When the fish are feeding on small bait, you should naturally go to small tubes, and conversely, when the fish are on big baits, then big tubes are best employed. Again, experimentation and observation are the keys to success. Watch the people who are catching and try to do what they are doing without being a pest.

Perhaps one of the deadliest methods of rigging up an umbrella rig calls for the use of a single larger tube trailing well behind the umbrella itself. Usually Bingle Lancers are used and they are rigged on a two foot mono leader tied directly to the center of the umbrella itself. Apparently this simulates a wounded sand eel trailing behind the main school and excites the bass into grabbing the trailer. You'll find that as much as ninety percent of the fish you land will have fallen for the trailing teaser.

Occasionally the plain bucktail rig will take fish. One ounce all-white or all-yellow bucktails or even parachute jigs such as the Lupo almighty squid sometimes turn on the fish when they turn their noses up at the umbrella rigs. For the best results use a long strip of pork rind (#70 Uncle Josh Striper Strip) with the jig. You'll find that you won't have to give the jig too much action with the long pork rinds.

Where does one start looking for these fish? That's a tough question to answer with an unqualified statement. The first place to start looking is the closest to home—the Rockaway jetty, right at the tip of the Breezy Point Peninsula. This spot is a producer all year long, but the fish gang up at the rip that runs south of the rocks. Sometimes the fish are found tight to the bell buoy and other times they will be offshore a bit. A little further to the south, there are numerous mussel beds and small reefs that cause tiny rips all over the place, and at times, these will hold the fish.

To the southwest, there is the famous Ambrose Channel that can produce some fine catches time to time. You'll try to concentrate your fishing activity to the shallow sides of the channel—either the black or the red side—and avoid the main channel itself. I don't think those big tankers would appreciate you fishing in front of them.

Back to the north, there is the Roamer Shoals lighthouse and its related grounds. The list can go on and on; there are just so many different places to fish in the Harbor area that it would take a full length article to cover each one of them. If you're not too familiar with the area, just keep your eyes open for the charter boats and the commercial rod and reel fishermen. Wherever they are, there is a good chance the fish are there—which doesn't mean that you shouldn't try to find the fish yourself. Use them only as an aid for future trips or to learn an area.

One of the key items you MUST have is a graph depth recorder. The fish are traveling and are not as structure conscience as they are at other times. The fish are likely to be anywhere the bait is. For most of the year, bass like to lie in rips, reefs, bottom formations, etc., and feed on the tide-swept bait as it tumbles to them. Now the fish will often leave these structures and pursue the bait on open bottom. The only way to help locate the bait you can't see is by using the machine. Why waste time fishing a barren area, when with the aid of the machine you can at least locate the bait supply.

I've found that more often than not the fish will feed at all levels of water, and not just near the bottom as they usually do. The best way to cover the grounds is to start trolling the wire at fairly short lengths and then drop them out if there is little or no action forthcoming. Start off with two umbrella rigs: fish the first one on 100 feet of wire, and try the second one at 115 feet of wire. If there is no action, go to 125 and 150 feet. Keep on dropping back until you touch bottom with the deep wire. If after this you've not had any hits, move on to another area and start the whole thing again. If you don't see any life, and no one is taking fish, it's likely that there aren't any fish around.

There are times when the fish will be in water deeper than thirty feet and this is where the diamond jig will

(Continued on page 21.)

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OPEN BOTTOM COD: *A New Approach*

by Bruce Sucher

Traditions die hard. That applies to the mundane aspects of everyday life, but it exerts an especially tight hold on fishing. Go out on any South Shore codfish boat and you'll see the same procedure followed. A long ride out to the grounds; odds are you'll anchor up. A mate bangs a bunch of skimmers over the side. You take your heavy rod and reel spooled with forty pound test line, and after baiting your 7/0 hook snelled to fifty pound leader, you begin your day.

If you fish out of Sheepshead Bay, Freeport or Captree, and you're lucky, you'll come home with a few cod—and more than likely they'll be under ten pounds. But "That's the way it is with codfishing," you say, "after the Russians depleted our resources, we're lucky to get that."

Then one evening you read in the fishing report section of your LIF that setliners are bringing large quantities of cod back to the dock; whereas the boat that was rod and reeling in the same locale only picked a few fish. You scratch your head, and turn the page. Stop right there! Let's examine what that means. Basically, that baits that bounce around and sinkers that "whap" into the sand or rock scare hell out of codfish. The noise from the boat above also contributes to the poor fishing. The conclusion one finally comes to is that, contrary to popular belief, cod are not numbed into stupidity by the cold water.

When you think of finesse in fishing, you picture the bass fisherman silently stalking his prey, or even the fluke devotee slowly lifting his rod tip. And for just about every game fish new lures are marketed and new techniques evolve. Still, for some reason, the codfisherman is bound by a tradition that dates back to the Grand Banks dory fishermen. Perhaps it is not the cod whose brain is numbed by the cold—it just might be the angler.

The first time I saw a new technique used on cod, it hurt. A few years back, my friend Bill and I sailed out of Captree. The cod reports had been poor to fair; but optimism is what motivates all fishermen. The preparation and dynamics of a trip can be almost as much fun as the actual sport. Hook tying, line changing and reel maintenance—and we were both ready.

The car looked like a porcupine with Fiberglas rod quills. My tackle was standard codfishing stuff: heavy action rods about seven feet long with 3/0 reels loaded with fresh forty pound pink mono. For the most part Bill's tackle was the same, except for one outfit and it looked out of place—a light conventional rod and a small Penn reel spooled with twenty pound test. "Gonna try for some flounder at the dock?" I asked.

"No, just an experiment."

Three hours later we were anchored on open bottom in one hundred feet of water southeast of Fire Island Inlet. On board was a light crowd of devoted codfishermen. Because the boat was almost empty, the captain said it would be all right if Bill and I fished with two rods each—and of course we were not allowed into the pool.

Bill caught the first fish of the day and the second and third. Then out of the corner of my eye, I saw my dead rod take a heavy set. I landed my first fish. Then the shouts for gaff from all around the boat; but it soon became clear the person who was catching the most was my friend Bill. Time and time again his voice could be heard calling "gaff." "The dumber the farmer, the bigger the potato," I muttered. And "He must have stepped in it this morning," said a neighbor.

Mates shucking skimmer clams. The fresher the bait the better it is.

The spaces next to him became filled. Almost everyone on board was bunched next to him, but he alone continued to steadily catch fish. Now maybe no one else on board noticed, but I sure did: ninety percent of his fish were on that fluke rod and light line. He had also used blackened 6/0 Sproats snelled to thirty pound test leader material. No hardware to attach the hooks to the line—just two simple dropper loops. And because the lighter line had less water resistance, he was able to get away with a six ounce sinker, while the rest of us had to go up to twelve ounces just to hold bottom.

There was no need to figure out who was high hook for the day, but just for the record I made a count. Bill had seventeen cod—fifteen of them taken on the light tackle. The fish ranged from six to just under thirty pounds. I had six fish—five of which had been caught on my "dead" stick.

Now there's a lesson to be learned from that day and perhaps it can benefit you. First of all examine why you use that heavy tackle. It was "recommended" or "that's the standard gear," is your answer. If you're an experienced codfisherman you're going to catch fish no matter what your tackle; but go light, and you'll catch more. And you just don't need forty or fifty pound test line to catch cod. Look at the IGFA record books and you'll see that fish, sometimes running into the hundreds of pounds,

have been taken on twelve pound test. So why can't you catch a forty pound cod on twenty? You can; just make sure that the drag on your reel is set to about forty percent of the line's breaking strength. And once the fish is hooked, don't be in a rush to haul Mr. Cod from the sea: take your time. Keep a good bend in your rod and if the fish wants line, let him take it. The greatest pleasure of fishing is the fight and the uncertainty of it—not a body count at the end of the day. Just don't try to lift your fish onto the boat unless it's a "rat." Call for the gaff when you know the fish is whipped and near the surface.

Terminal tackle should be as simple as possible: that's a rule that in bait fishing is almost universal. However, for some reason, people seem to think that the cod is not only stupid, but blind as well. It just ain't so. Careful presentation of your "offering" is as important with Mr. Cod as many other fish. My favorite hook is a 6/0 Japan blacked Sproat which I sharpen with a pocket stone. This is snelled onto eighteen to twenty-four inches of stiff thirty pound leader material. I use the forty-two inch strands available at most good tackle shops and cut them in half. Next, I make two dropper loops on my line and place the first hook about two feet above the sinker and the second three feet above the first. If you prefer the quick rig to attach leader to line—then use them. I don't. I prefer the standard bank sinker because it doesn't spin in the water and usually four to eight ounces of lead is enough. If you ever have to go up to ten ounces to hold bottom and you're using light line, then you can bet the rest of those on board are using at least sixteen ounces to get the same result.

Bait selection is important. On a party boat, skimmer clams are the usual fare and sometimes they're one or more days old. Economics forces the owner to use up what he's got before he opens the live ones. Salt is frequently used on the older bait to give it more body and toughen it. On the other hand, they'll probably be chumming with live fresh skimmers. Grab a few of these and open them yourself; try and get the lips, too. Small clams should be used whole and the large kind split down the middle. To finish my offering, I would impale some lip and let it dangle from just behind the barb. If you're willing to expend a little energy to gain an edge over your neighbors, then buy a dozen or more "chowder" sized hard clams—the bigger the better. Use them whole; the biggest I've ever seen is not too large for a single bait. I have no idea why this clam from the back bays should be so effective, but it is. Another option would be to try and catch a fresh whiting or mackerel and use a whole fillet. But I've only had luck with this fish bait when they could be caught in the same area as the cod.

Underhand cast your rig away from the boat and when it hits bottom, let it sit. If you're the nervous type, then put your rod down and make sure it's attached firmly to the boat. Leave enough slack so that the rolling of the boat does not bounce your rig all over the bottom. If you're disciplined, then simply hold your rod and adjust its tip to the movement of the boat; that's why the better codfish rods are seven to eight feet long—but too heavy. Since cod are frequently caught in rough seas, the extra rod length is useful. No matter how you decide to fish, don't move the bait. Remember the set lines I mentioned earlier? That's what you're trying to duplicate.

Another aspect of codfishing which deserves consideration is the method of chumming. There, up in the bow of the boat, is the mate whacking skimmer clams with a baseball bat. Over the years, I wonder how many thousands of bushels have been used in this manner. But as far as I'm concerned, it is a highly inefficient means of bringing fish into the area of your baited hook.

When you chum for any other species of fish, you are told to maintain a steady, even chum slick. This eventually covers a very large area of water and year after year produces fine catches of shark, bluefish, striped bass, and even porgies. Clam whacking does produce fish—there's no doubt in my mind about that; but wouldn't it be a lot better to offer a steady, even slick directly from the boat to the cod? Of course it would. Do you see what I'm getting at?

The most effective means of luring cod to the boat is with clam bellies. A large frozen block of this glop is lowered in a heavy chum pot or weighted onion sack and then lifted a few feet from the bottom. It is then tied off on a cleat or rail and left to do with the cod what it does so well with bass and other fish. Namely, get them to your baited hook.

For a full day's codfishing, I use a three gallon can of bellies, but you could probably get by with less. As long as the slick is maintained, the effect should be the same. And when you consider the cost of the few bushels of skimmers versus the can of chum, it works out quite favorably—both economically and especially with the number of fish put in the boat. And I'm not just talking to private boat owners now, but the party boat captains as well.

Another not so new method is the depth charge. No, I'm not talking about dynamite or the "DuPont Spinner." Just take a large paper bag and half fill it with clam shells or crushed clams. Then take a sash weight tied to the end of a long line and place it inside with the offering. Leave a few feet of slack with it and tie the line around the bunched neck of the leg and lower away. When it reaches bottom, bring in about ten feet of line and begin lifting and yanking. In a few seconds, the sash weight will have ripped the bottom out of the bag and delivered your offering right where it will do the most good.

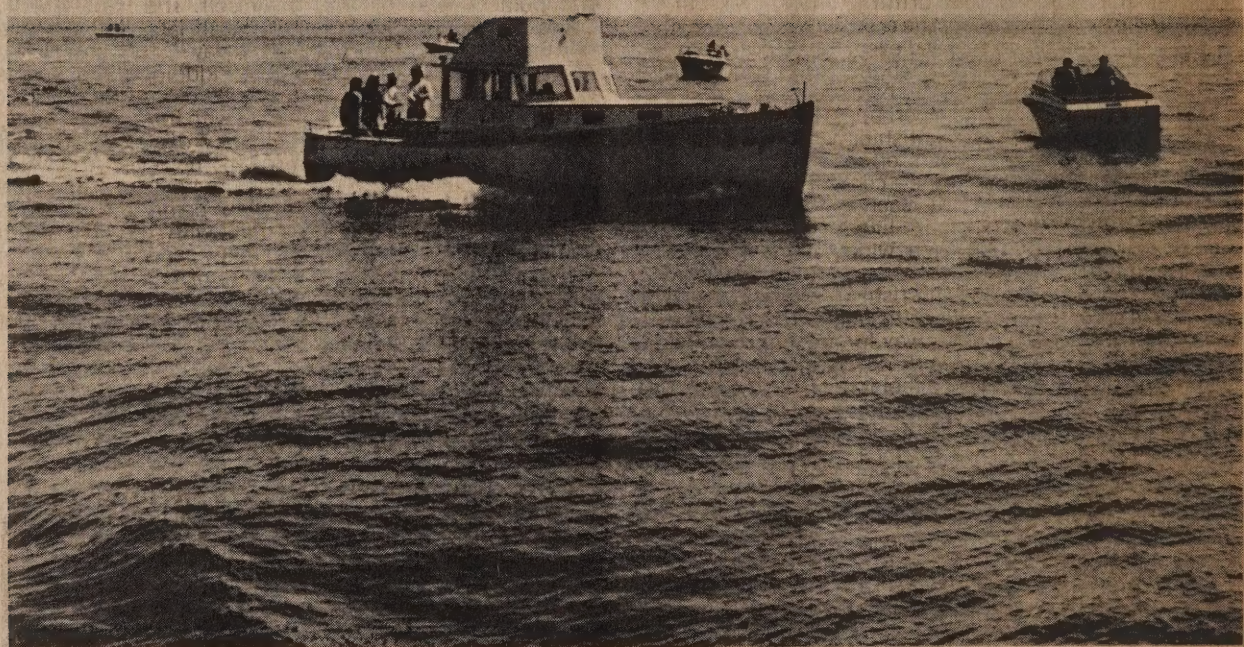
Maybe I've convinced you and maybe I haven't. But amongst those who are unwilling to change their attitude towards codfishing are a few open-minded individuals willing to take a chance and break with tradition. And that's who I wrote this article for.

Bill fooled this nice fish with light line.

Mate displays big cod brought to gaff by this lucky angler.

TO FISH OR NOT TO FISH WITH THE FLEET

by Gerald Hahn



A small part of a typical fleet drifting for blues off Fishers Island. Small boat anglers rarely do well when fishing too close to party boats for this species.

People, like fish, seem to have schooling instincts. A ride on any interstate highway will confirm this. You can drive for miles and not see one car: all of a sudden, a dozen vehicles come into view, practically tailgating one another. Perhaps people feel more secure driving near others. Maybe this tendency to move in packs on the Long Island Expressway is the reason why it takes me so long to get to a decent fishing spot.

But the problem does not end once I am on the water. Weekend boat traffic on the notorious State Channel in western Long Island, can be worse than the Expressway. Way out east, it isn't much better. Even on "quiet" weekdays, fishermen love to anchor and form a fleet, anticipating schools of fish on the bottom. And each body of water seems to have its favorite classroom: the Ruin in Gardiner's Bay; the Coast Guard Station at Moriches; Rose's Grove in the Peconics; Heckscher Flats in Great South Bay, etc. Sometimes there is a good reason for all those boats clustered together: there are fish in the area, and these spots are known producers. But many times, they yield no more fish than any other spot. Just as often, they are absolutely dead. No wonder—with all those fishing lines in the water, flasher blades and propeller blades, menacing fishhooks and anchors—the poor fish would rather risk the perils of the Atlantic. For these reasons, many professionals advise fishermen to strike out on their own. Nonetheless, the fleet remains.

Yet there are advantages to fishing near a fleet of boats. Years ago, Van Campen Heilner described a method of weakfishing in New Jersey that involved setting up a line of boats, chumming grass shrimp in unison, and waiting for the action. Sometimes tiderunners would attack at one end; other times in the middle—but the action did come. With a chum line half a mile wide, it was surely a better method than fishing alone. But that took place at a time when fishing and fishermen were more genteel. Nowadays, you merely have to participate in a run of bluefishing to note the difference. If you are in a small boat near surfacing blues—beware—some characters will not only cut your line, but practically sink your boat to get a crack at them. Sheer madness.

In a smaller version, sometimes you can duplicate and benefit from Heilner's method. If you go fishing with a group of people, as happens, and plan to rent several boats, why not try some organized approach instead of everybody "doing his own

thing?" Particularly when anchoring, set up a line of boats and begin chumming simultaneously. More area is covered this way as the chum drifts with the current and you may attract more fish. Even when drifting, if several boats begin forty feet apart from the same area, a considerable amount of time is saved. If one out of three picks up fish, the others can move into that line and duplicate the drift. If no pick-ups occur, subsequent fruitless drifts are avoided and a new area can be explored.

On a good day when boats are packed together in random fashion, even without cooperative chumming, more bait will be in the water and this, in itself, can draw fish into the vicinity. As an example, image thirty boats covering an area about a mile square with an average of two rods per boat. That means 60 bloodworms (120 with tandem rigs), 120 squid strips or sand eels—some on bottom, some at mid-level, a few drifting, many anchored—throughout the area. In addition, old bait is discarded every so often, creating a sporadic chum. Fish pick up the scent or see the baits and many people get hits—perhaps more than when one person is fishing alone. This is why party boats often do so well—if not for everyone—certainly in total numbers caught. Such a boat has twenty to sixty or more lines in the water, in addition to a wide spread of chum.

Yet another beneficiary who fishes with the fleet is the newcomer to an area. A person fishing a waterway for the first time does well to work near other boats until he develops a feel for fishing there. He can learn a lot this way by observing the kind of tackle being used and the methods of those who strike the most fish. Most important, the novice should make a note of the precise spot that produces so well. Later on, or on a less crowded day, he can check it out for himself. Is it a dropoff near a flat? Does the terrain change here? What stage of the tide is best? How does the water look here in relation to the surrounding water? Learning the answers to such questions ultimately makes a good fisherman out of the beginner. Gaining confidence with the fleet, eventually he can explore new areas away from the throngs.

Fishing near others can be useful for the experienced angler as well, if there is a brief period of excellent fishing to be had. For example, the spring run of tiderunners in the Peconics has been getting shorter each season over the last few years. In fact, last season, great fishing lasted only about ten days. Now, unless you live in the area and have up-to-date information, it is pointless to look for a secluded spot and expect to make a killing. Reading the local reports in this magazine **carefully** may tell you when to go out; but with a brief run like this, you want to know **where** to fish. At such times, it is best to fish with the fleet, the regulars—fishermen who were out yesterday. You see, tiderunners are not going to spread out all over Peconic Bay waiting for you; one day, they may show up in Rose's Grove, the next in the Race or off Shelter Island. No matter how great your fishing skills are, the locals are going to know more than you. Fish with the fleet!

But I wonder why all those people love to fish next to each other when, clearly, nothing is happening? Sometimes they enjoy ribbing one another. I prefer to catch fish and this is the time to take a chance and explore virgin territory. I remember first starting to fish for fluke in Moriches Bays. In the beginning, it was typically the Coast Guard Station or the cuts to the inlet—all good, crowded spots. Some days it paid off and I learned a lot by watching others. But returning one slow day, I overheard a person who came back with an impressive catch, mention buoy 42, farther east. The next time out, after trying the popular spots without results and seeing no one do better, I gunned the little 6 h.p. motor and headed out to buoy 42. The place was empty. I soon discovered that the water was deeper here and the bottom more varied than the bars and flats to the west. There were weeds, rocks, and hard sand, as well as a very deep hole. I picked up quite a few twenty inch fluke here—the norm in those days, no throwbacks—and most of the time only a few boats were nearby, while in the distance, the fleet could be seen enjoying one another's hitless company. And when this area became inconsistent, I discovered others.

Nowadays, I often find it amusing to be "creating a fleet." I locate a secluded spot, pick up a fish, and as happens, some wanderer sees my rod arc. Now there are two boats fishing this spot. Within an hour, there will be a whole congregation here. But it is almost always first-come, first-served. The latecomers joining a new fleet inevitably catch the least fish.

The late Al Reinfelder went through something like this as he related his hilarious adventures with the police while fishing from bridges at night. At first, he "went to school" and learned the ropes by fishing with a group of dedicated surf casters. However, when the cops discovered that these nuts standing on bridges were not saboteurs, but fishermen catching stripers, they became interested and subsequently stashed fishing gear in their patrol cars. That did it for Al. He became a dropout or rather, a graduate, and found places to fish by himself. It's history now. When asked much later on, "Where do you fish today?" he answered, "You got to be kidding! Not even the CIA has that kind of information."

After fishing with the fleet, learning what you can, try exploring on your own. Remember, however, that fishing near others, at times, can be more productive than being an explorer. But in general, with the increasing scarcity of many species and the greater numbers of fishermen today, sooner or later you will have to graduate from the fleet. Why not now?

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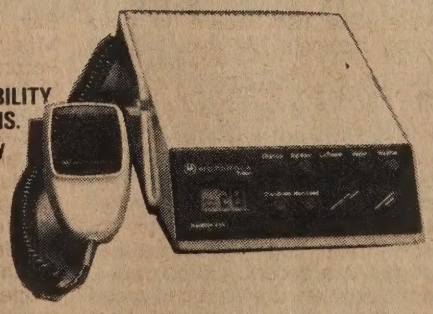

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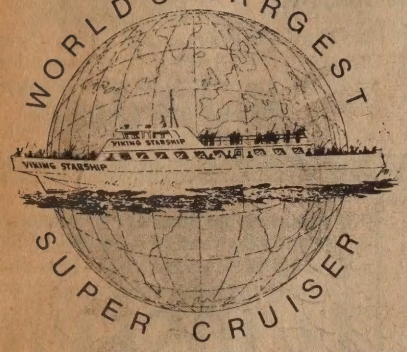

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SEASON FINALE

(Continued from page 15.)

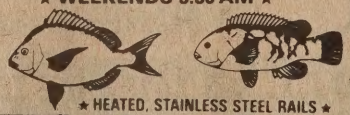
be most effective. While Montauk receives the most publicity for diamond jigging, it originated back here on the Rockaway grounds. Last year, a couple of the Sheepshead Bay party boats sailed as open boats for striped bass fishing. Squidding is the most effective way to use the jig. This simply calls for lowering the jig to the bottom and retrieving it back to the surface at varying speeds until a fish is hooked. This is effective when the fish are concentrated in tight schools in moderately deep water, and loses its effectiveness when the fish are feeding close to the surface or are scattered over a wide area.

One of the finest methods you can use to take these fish is by casting small artificial lures to the fish. There are rare occasions when the fish feed right on the surface and you can bail them with tiny plugs. This has happened on more than one occasion in the past few years. The fish eventually move into the waters of Upper New York Harbor as they head back to the Hudson. The fish can pop up anywhere from the beaches of Coney Island to the waters of the Verrazano Bridge. Last year the fish showed up tight to the beach near Gravesend Bay, and surfcasters lining the edge of the Belt Parkway in Brooklyn took fish. Small Rebel plugs or RedFin lures will work well with these small fish.

That just about wraps things up. While the weather conditions will be a little on the harsh side, it prolongs the bass a few short weeks. Things really get going as the majority of boatmen pull their boats out of the water. If we get a mild Autumn, don't be surprised if there are fish around through the first week of December. Remember, it's six long months until things get going again.

MARLIN IV

BLACKS • COD
PORGIES
Block Island
Wrecks & Ledges
★ WEEKDAYS 6:30 AM ★
★ WEEKENDS 5:30 AM ★



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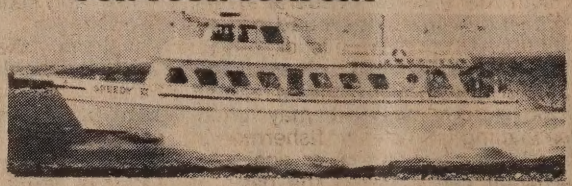
COD
6AM DAILY
SPEEDY VI



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NO TOLLS • COD FARE $16.
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SCOTTY
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SMALL OR LARGE GROUPS
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7AM DAILY 7AM
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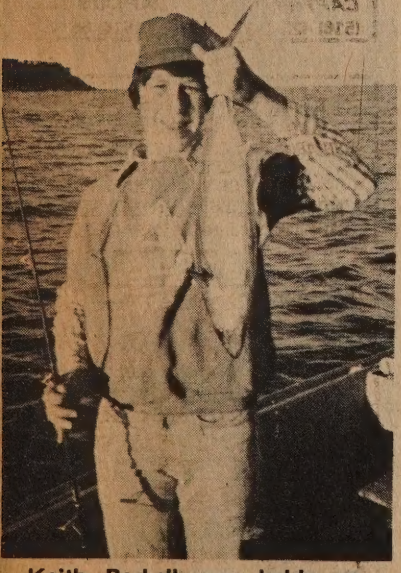
Say you saw it in
The Long Island
FISHERMAN

MONTAUK
★ BEST BET ★
CODFISH

Capt. Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Fleet** tells us that the **Viking Star** this past week has enjoyed good catches of new green cod and a liberal sprinkling of big blackfish. Paul says some decent weather should give anglers increased catches of these fish which are running 8-12 lbs. This has been the first sign of new fish and numbers can only go up. This is all on bait at Cartwright fishing open bottom. Paul also asked us to let our readers know this this week he is taking the Viking Starship down to Key West, Florida where this boat will sail a winter schedule as follows: sailing Fri. night at 11Pm, returning 5PM Sun. night, fare $86. Tues. morning at 9 AM sailing to Ft. Jefferson for sightseeing and snorkeling. Both returns 6PM same day, fare $20. Tues. night fishing trips sailing 11PM, returning Wed. at 6PM, fare $55. Thurs. 9 AM, same as the Tues. sightseeing snorkeling trip. All of the above are by reservation only. The Starship will have a truck at the dock to buy fish from the passengers. In Montauk, the Viking Star will be sailing daily all winter.



Keith Berkelhumer holds up one of the six bonito and twelve bluefish he and his father landed on light spinning gear aboard the charter boat, "Vivienne."

PASS IT ON

(Continued from page 4.)

effective force in the political arena, it must have a large base of support from the voting public. Therefore, the American League of Anglers will attempt to attract large numbers of supporters who indicate their support for the program of the American League of Anglers by contributing annually and from time to time, by becoming directly involved in the political process as representatives of the American League of Anglers and the sport fishermen it represents.

The objective of the American League of Anglers is to create an awareness of, and responsiveness to, the opinions and desires of American sport fishermen in the minds of elected representatives and officials, at both the State and Federal levels. This may mean persuading an incumbent representative or official that fishermen in his or her constituency represent a critical voting block. Alternatively, it may entail marshalling the votes of fishermen in a particular district for or against a particular candidate on the basis of his stated position regarding an issue or issues affecting sport fishing or on his past record regarding similar and related issues.

The American League of Anglers will consult actively with existing sport fishing organizations on both a local and national level regarding issues deserving of attention and action by the American League of Anglers. For those occasions when issues first arise at a national level, the American League of Anglers will attempt to provide an "early warning system" to local groups in order that they might organize local activities on a more timely basis than might otherwise be possible.

Issues selected for action by the American League of Anglers will, in most instances, relate directly to fish, fisheries management, fish habitat, and sport fishing. In some instances, however, issues which are involved with resource conservation in a broader sense may be selected either on the basis of their indirect effect on fish or fish habitat or because the issue appears to be amply significant, and the conservation implications sufficiently clear, to warrant supportive cooperative action by the American League of Anglers.

The selection of issues for the American League of Anglers' action is the responsibility of the Board of Directors or of its Executive Committee by communication with the American League of Anglers' Executive Director.

Actions taken by the American League of Anglers in support of sport fishermen's interests may include campaigning for or against candidates within certain districts; stimulating direct contact from the electorate through letter writing campaigns; contacting legislators to persuade them to the American League of Anglers' position on individual items of legislation; fostering public awareness of issues through print media articles and television and radio appearances; proposing legislation directly, and whatever other ethical methods appear constructive and practical.

For further information, write or call: The American League of Anglers, Inc., 810 18th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006 (202)-347-7475.

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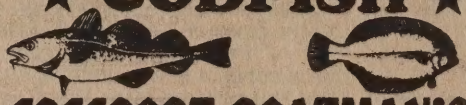

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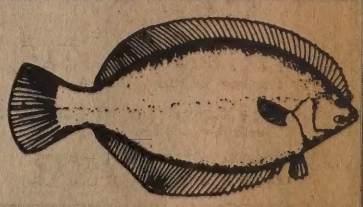

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★ SPECIAL FARE $9 ★

Twelve-year-old Jerry Byrne caught this 38½ lb. striper on an Ava jig aboard Capt. Bud Dorman's "Viking Skipper II."

SOUTH FORK
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

MORICHES BAY

East Moriches Bait & Tackle reports that flounders are still being picked up at Buoy 35 and at the bridges on worm and clam. Sunday saw Fred Migone pick up a 20 lb. cod about a mile south of the C Buoy. The wind and heavy seas forced them in after that. The fish was a sucker for a clam bait.

GREAT SOUTH BAY
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

BAY SHORE

Captain Neil of the Casey Lee tells us the flounder fishing has been generally good, but catches were off on the weekend due to gale force winds. Neil says the boat will be sailing until mid-December weather permitting.

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Your choice of Tue., Wed. or Thur. Eve, 7:30 PM to 10 PM, 9 wks. *Absolutely no other charges!*
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BLACKFISH SPECIAL
DELMAR 8AM EVERY DAY
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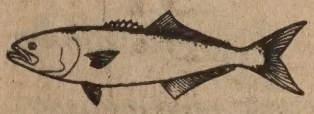

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★SHEEPSHEAD BAY★

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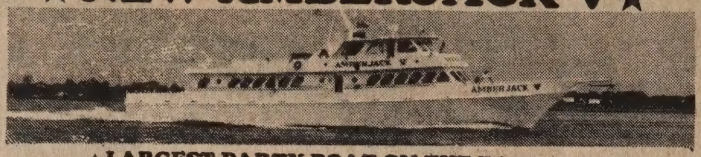

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9 AM Bottom **ATOMIC II** 7 PM NITE Blues
100' Alum. Boat • Galley • Heated Rails & Cabin
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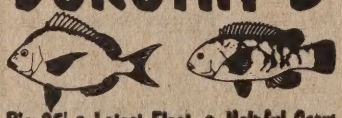
DOROTHY B



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LUCKY STAR
PORGIES & BLACKS
FAST, COMFORTABLE 85' • TWIN DIESELS
Full Restaurant • All Tackle On Board
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CITY ISLAND

CAPTREE

Captain Speedy Hubert of the **Speedy VI** tells us he has had pretty decent codfishing over the weekend. On Sat., 30 passengers decked 27 cod. Sunday saw 25 take another 24 cod, fish from 10-40 lbs. They fished SE of the Inlet on wrecks. Speedy says the water temp. is still warm, in the 50s and that colder water which is moving in daily should produce even better catches. Action is a little better than this time last year. Catches were on bait.

Captain George Tweedy of the **Captain Scotty** says he had at least several cod each trip this week along wtih a few odd sea bass and blacks. On Friday 15 cod were taken, including a 25 lber, a 30 lber., and a 40 lb. 2 oz. lunker.

SOUTH SHORE BAYS
★BEST BET★
FLOUNDER

BALDWIN

Andy at **Arthur Street Fishing Station** reports that a half pail of flounder was caught in Middle Bay just outside Andy's canal by Eskimo Norm Hammel. Winners of the Arthur St. Fishing Station fishing

contest for the season are as follows: Striper, 46 lbs. by George Zipper. Blue, 18¾ lbs., George Zipper. Weak, 11¼ lbs. George Fischer. Fluke, 5 lb. 6 oz. Mike Sullivan. The prize for each category was $70 cash and a trophy.

WEST END
SOUTH SHORE
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

FREEPORT

The Captain Al reports that its passengers are getting a handful of cod each day from 10 lbs. to up in the high 30s. Blackfish are showing up and they are still picking occasional sea bass, porgies and blues since the water is still warm. A real upsurge in numbers of fish should appear after the new moon of November 30. Al is fishing wrecks.

The Starstream II reports several cod being taken each day on clam. On Sun. they had 8 cod up to 30 lbs. fishing wrecks. Some porgy, sea bass and blacks are also being taken in the not-yet-frigid water. On Thanksgiving Day, 14 cod were caught and 12 were taken on Friday. The bigger fish are running 25-35 lbs. The boat will be sailing daily as usual at 6AM.

Captain Spider Schmidt of the **Aloma II** tells us he's catching plenty of ling, bags and bags. He's working local wrecks off Debs buoy 4. The fish are ranging from 1½ to 5 lbs. Best action of the week was on Sun. Fishing was fast and furious. It's been mostly ling, but a few whiting are showing up also and there should be a much stronger showing of whiting in the next week or so.

The Capt. Lou II called to tell us he's had very good flounder fishing during the week with Fri. being excellent. Dave Dreyer of New Hyde Park was high hook with 54 keepers. Weekend action was good, with fish from 1/2 to 1¼ lbs. in weight. One 3 lber was taken. All catches are on worm and clam in Reynolds Channel. Captain Mike say the fish are still hungry and that they "feeding before meeting."

POINT LOOKOUT

Scotty's Marina reported that the wind kept most boats in port. Those that did get out found flounder at buoys 13 and 14 in Reynold's Channel taking worm and clam bait. Nice size bluefish were being trolled in the inlet area on umbrella rigs as late as this past weekend.

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ISLAND PARK

Captain Klem of the **Commodore** tells us Sat.'s pool fish was a 1½ lb. flattie caught by Charlotte Weinstein, who had 14 other keepers as well including 2 doubleheaders. Sunday saw John Trost of the Bronx take the pool with a 1¾ flounder along with 21 other keeper flounder. Frank Hurkowitz on Sunday had 23 flounder to take back with him to Rockaway. Also John Skeith of Mahopac, N.Y. had 25 keepers. Klem was fishing by the hospital in 55 ft. of water and says the fish are in small patches, hitting worm and clam baits. The flounder action looks good and there should be fish until the first heavy freeze.

Charlie at **Beckmann's Tackle** said the weekend's gale winds kept everyone home but a few hearty, flounder hopefuls. Charlie saw no reason to doubt that flounder were caught but did not have any definite reports.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Capt. Joe Miller on the **Atomic II** reports good catches of ling and whiting between the channels. Theses are all medium size fish, 20% whiting and 80% ling. Some fares had 50-60 fish and that numbers can go nowheres but up now.

Captain Walter on the **Flamingo III** reports the season is shaping up for good catches of ling and whiting and the whiting will probably by the weekend be in the usual shallower waters around the Ambrose which makes ideal sinker bouncing for these delicious bottom fish.

The Amberjack V is now sailing daily for whiting and is also running 7PM whiting trips Wed. through Sat. nights.

The Dorothy B and the **Elsie K III** report whiting have showed up in Ambrose Channel and they are catching them along with solid catches of ling.

This 400 lb. haul of big blues was made by Dr. Jack McGuire and 11-year-old Matty Contez aboard the charterboat "Kim." All of the fish fell to Lupo Baby Bunker Spoons.

STATEN ISLAND

Lenny at **Santo's Sport Shop** reported that the bunkers have left the area and the big bass with them. Surfmen continue to take small bass however. Penny Beach and Cliff St. have been producing catches of 2-10 small stripers per angler on worm bait, redfins, rebels, and bucktails. Most consistent fishing has been on outgoing water.

The first 3 hours of the flood has provided the same type action at Jersey St. and Sailor's Snug Harbor. Flounder ½ to ¾ of a pound in Princess Bay behind "Trade Mart" and Pier 8 on worms.

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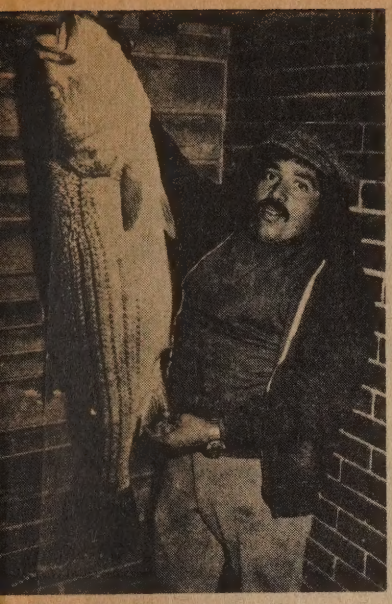

This 43½ lb. striper was taken by Phil Piscitello at Great Kills Park, Staten Island on bunker bait. Photo courtesy Santo's Sport Shop.

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FLOUNDER

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NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

MT. SINAI HBR.

Ralphs Fishing Station reported that cold, northerly winds kept everyone at the dock this weekend. There are a couple of guys waiting to give the bass a last shot if they get a break from the weather.

HUNTINGTON

The Ever Ready reports that due to high winds, last Sunday's second trip fished flounders only. This Sun. will be flounders only. See ad for details.

NORTH SHORE WEST END
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

CITY ISLAND

Jack's Bait & Tackle reported that

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flounder were caught by a few persistent fishermen. Eastchester Bay, Orchard Beach, and Prospect Point continue to produce fish on worm bait.

The Ebb Tide called and asked us to remind you that they will be the only boat sailing for whiting out of City Island on Saturdays and Sundays.

John (Whitey) Karelefsky caught this pool winning 7½ lb. blackfish aboard the City Island party boat "Ebb Tide."

HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-PORT AM	BRIDGE-PORT PM	NEW-PORT AM	NEW-PORT PM	DATE
THUR.	7:22	7:42	8:03	8:24	7:51	8:17	8:41	9:15	10:33	11:05	10:37	11:07	7:17	7:40	11/30
FRI.	8:08	8:31	8:50	9:12	8:37	9:09	9:27	10:04	11:19	11:53	11:23	11:56	8:04	8:29	12/1
SAT.	8:56	9:23	9:38	10:03	9:28	10:06	10:16	10:55	—	12:08	—	12:14	8:54	9:21	12/2
SUN.	9:49	10:19	10:29	10:57	10:27	11:07	11:07	11:52	12:45	1:00	12:48	1:06	9:45	10:14	12/3
MON.	10:45	11:19	11:24	11:58	11:25	—	—	12:05	1:39	1:56	1:42	2:03	10:40	11:12	12/4
TUE.	11:43	—	—	12:22	12:07	12:25	12:52	1:08	2:38	2:57	2:40	3:01	11:38	—	12/5
WED.	12:20	12:41	1:02	1:25	1:05	1:22	1:55	2:14	3:52	4:19	3:41	4:07	12:11	12:37	12/6
THUR.	1:20	1:43	2:09	2:31	2:03	2:21	3:01	3:23	5:17	5:49	4:44	5:13	1:13	1:40	12/7

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet ....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	—0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	—0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	—0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	—0 12
Seaside Park	—0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	—0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	—0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	—0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	—0 02
Rehoboth Beach	—0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	—0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	—0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	—0 38
Democrat Point	—0 38
Coast Guard Station	—0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	—0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	—0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	—0 08
Herod Point	—0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	—0 20
Truman Beach	—0 42
Falkner Island	—0 13
Sachem Head	—0 10
Branford Harbor	—0 07
New Haven Harbor	—0 08
Milford Harbor	—0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	—0 03
Saugatuck River	—0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	—0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	—0 14
Montauk Inlet	—0 25
Montauk Point	—1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	—0 33
Noank, Mystic River	—0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	—0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	—0 10
Execution Light	—0 06
Manhasset Bay	—0 01
Hempstead Harbor	—0 11
City Island	—0 03
Rye Beach	—0 28
Port Chester	—0 09
Mamaroneck	—0 08
New Rochelle	—0 24
Davids Island	—0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	—0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	—0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	—0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	—0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	—0 08
Point Judith Harbor	—0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	—0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

12/2	7:09	4:29
12/7	7:14	4:29
12/12	7:19	4:29
12/17	7:22	4:30
12/22	7:24	4:32
12/27	7:27	4:35

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
12/29	12/7	12/14	12/22

The Original Knight SOLUNAR TABLES When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM		PM	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Thurs.	3:45	10:30	4:10	11:00
Fri.	4:40	11:30	5:15	—
Sat.	5:45	12:05	6:15	12:40
Sun.	6:55	1:10	7:20	1:45
Mon.	8:00	2:15	8:25	2:45
Tues.	9:00	3:15	9:25	3:45
Wed.	10:00	4:15	10:25	4:40
Thurs.	10:55	5:15	11:25	5:35